

the parties feel bound to but that actually means something.

Five Nation Summit

Q. Mr. President, would you like to go to Paris to that summit of five nations? Looks like Russia supports that, the French, the Germans.

The President. First of all, I want to have my meeting with President Yeltsin. I think that's the most important thing. We have to meet first. Chancellor Kohl has been to see President Yeltsin. President Chirac's seen him. And I haven't seen him in several months, and I'm anxious to see him. We've talked on the phone, but I want to have a meeting first. And before we all get together we need to be very clear on what it is we'll be discussing and what we expect the results to be. So I want to defer a decision on that until I have a chance to have my visit with President Yeltsin.

Helsinki Summit and NATO Expansion

Q. Mr. President, can the summit in Helsinki influence in any way the timetable of the NATO expansion?

The President. Well, we intend to have our meeting in the summertime and make the decisions that we have agreed already to make on that. That's a decision that's already been made by NATO. But what I think that the summit in Helsinki can do is to make it clear that no one has any intention of providing any increased threat to the security of Russia.

I have worked very hard for 4 years to elevate the role of Russia in the international forums, in the economic forums like the G-7, in security partnerships like the remarkable partnership we have in Bosnia. I'm convinced that the operation in Bosnia would not have the credibility it does today if you didn't have Russia and the United States and the European parties in there.

My whole vision of the future is a partnership of all of Europe's democracies, obviously including Russia, as I said in my State of the Union Address. So I think we'll be able to talk about that and make some real progress.

The Vice President. And we're going to have a discussion in here in just a minute, so you need to give them a chance. [Laugh-

ter]. They're going to do a press conference——

[At this point, a question was asked in Russian, and a translation was not provided.]

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. It's a step forward—[inaudible]—express the importance for the meeting with the President and the President of Russia. It will be one of the critical stages in terms of—[inaudible]—in Europe. The upcoming summit, and the questions [inaudible]—a wide range, and the decisions will be extremely important for the relationship between our two countries and for European security as well, as well as for the arms control, for economic questions.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Boris Yeltsin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the National Economy and the Fiscal Year 1998 Budget

February 7, 1997

Today we learned that during the full 4 years of my first term, the economy added 11.5 million new jobs—the first time any administration has ever created more than 11 million jobs and well above the 8 million new jobs I had set as our goal. The combined rate of unemployment and inflation was lower than during any other administration since Lyndon Johnson was President. And the deficit fell by 63 percent, from \$290 billion in 1992 to \$107 billion in 1996. Now we must continue our work of balancing the budget while investing in people. The budget I released yesterday will balance the budget by 2002, contributing to continued strong growth with low inflation. I look forward to working with congressional leaders to pass a balanced budget that maintains our crucial investments in education and training.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Cyprus

February 7, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report

on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question. The previous submission covered progress through September 30, 1996. The current submission covers the period October 1 through November 30, 1996.

The tragic violence on Cyprus in August and September was detailed in my last report. Sadly, included in this report is an account of an additional killing on October 13.

Nonetheless, these senseless acts need not be repeated. The United Nations has been working very hard to obtain agreement on a series of practical measures to reduce the prospects for further violence along the Island's cease-fire lines. My Administration fully supports the U.N. package. A U.S. inter-agency team that visited the region put the issue on its agenda and urged the parties to implement all the steps in the U.N. package.

Given the events of the past summer and fall, we are disappointed that the United Nations attempts to obtain this agreement have not yet succeeded. We will continue to press the issue with the parties. Cooperation on these steps, although modest, could have a beneficial effect on larger settlement efforts.

Although it is properly the subject of my next report, I should also note my concern about the recent decision of the Government of Cyprus to purchase SA-10 anti-aircraft missile systems and the resulting threats of a military strike from Ankara. We have forcefully made our concern known to both governments. At the same time, we remain committed to pursuing a comprehensive settlement on Cyprus. As Secretary Albright stated during her confirmation hearings: "We are prepared to play a heightened role in promoting a resolution in Cyprus, but, for any initiative to bear fruit, the parties must agree to steps that will reduce tensions and make direct negotiations possible."

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 3

In the morning, the President met with President Alberto Fujimori of Peru in the White House to discuss Mr. Fujimori's recent visit to Toronto and the hostage crisis in Peru.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marsha Mason to the National Council on the Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations: Lester M. Alberthal, Jr.; Roger J. Baccigaluppi; John E. Bryson; James P. (Tom) Camerlo, Jr.; John T. Chambers; Walter Y. Elisha; Donald V. Fites; Richard S. Fuld, Jr.; Fred Krupp; Lenore Miller; Bernard Rapoport; Jerome A. Siegel; Paula Stern; and John J. Sweeney.

The President announced his intention to designate Michael J. Gaines as Chair of the U.S. Parole Commission.

The White House announced that Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada and his wife have accepted the President's invitation for an official visit to Washington, DC, on April 8.

The White House announced that the President has accepted an invitation to visit The Netherlands on May 28 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Marshall plan and to participate in the U.S.-European Union summit.

February 4

The President announced his intention to nominate Theodore F. Verheggen to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

The White House announced that the President sent a message to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel extending condolences on behalf of all Americans to the